
HOUSE BILL 3060

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/21/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing glossaries for the Washington
2 assessment of student learning; adding a new section to chapter 28A.655
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In the 2006-07 school year, more than eighty
6 thousand students in grades kindergarten through twelve were English
7 language learners in the transitional bilingual program. An unknown
8 number of these students understand the academic content of mathematics
9 and science at their grade level, but struggle with the language and
10 vocabulary, and consequently are not able to demonstrate their
11 knowledge on the Washington assessment of student learning. Other
12 students simply struggle with some of the language on reading and
13 writing assessments, even though they have learned the necessary
14 academic aspects of these subjects. The 2006 legislature directed the
15 office of the superintendent of public instruction to examine the
16 feasibility of translating the mathematics assessment into other
17 languages. As a result, the legislature finds that steps are needed to
18 make the state's academic assessments more accessible for English
19 language learner students. More than twenty-six other states provide

1 test-specific glossaries with their assessments to assist these
2 students. Research has found that, when properly constructed,
3 glossaries do not affect the validity of the assessment. The report
4 from the office of the superintendent of public instruction recommends
5 development of appropriate glossaries for the Washington assessment of
6 student learning.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
10 develop customized English language glossaries for the reading,
11 writing, mathematics, and science content areas of the Washington
12 assessment of student learning for each grade level in which the
13 assessment is administered and update the glossaries each year as
14 necessary. The purpose of the glossaries is to provide assistance to
15 English language learners and other students in understanding
16 nonacademic terms in the assessment without affecting the validity of
17 the assessment as a measure of a student's understanding of the
18 academic content. The office shall make any glossaries that are
19 developed available to schools, school districts, individuals, and
20 community groups by posting the glossaries on its web site.

21 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
22 accept and review bilingual translations of any glossaries developed
23 under this section from community-based organizations or individuals
24 with expertise in the language of translation. The office may edit the
25 translations as necessary to ensure accuracy and preserve the validity
26 of the assessment. The office shall make any accepted translated
27 glossaries available to schools and school districts by posting the
28 translated glossaries on its web site.

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